treatment of patients as has been brought out in the Hindustan Times dated July 18, 1997 in the news item captioned "Hospitals let him bleed to death";

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter and the take necessary action against the hospitals concerned so as to be a deterrent to other hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement dated 6.5.1996 in Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity and others V/s States of West Bengal and another among other things have suggested remedial measures to ensure immediate medical attention and treatment to persons in real need, Government of NCT of Delhi have informed that Supreme Court directions have been circulated to the hospitals for strict compliance.

(b) and (c) The concerned hospitals/Nursing Homes have been asked by the Government of NCT of Delhi to explain the circumstances for not admitting the patient on the said date.

[Translation]

Impact of Privatisation of Medical Colleges

2410. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the process of privatisation of Medical Colleges has began qualitative differences between the candidates who got admission through competition and those who got admission through capitation fee and likely to affect the quality of medical education adversely; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Admission in medical colleges both in Government colleges and private colleges, in regulated through a common entrance test conducted/merit list prepared by the competent authority in the respective States. The Supreme Court has prescribed 15% seats in private medical colleges of NRI/foreign students and selection for the same in done by the respective colleges on merit. Charging of capitation fee is banned by the Supreme Court.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Drugs

2411. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Lucknow is becoming a major centre of drug smugglers in Uttar Pradesh in connivance and complicity of police and Insurance authorities and the smugglers smuggled only medicines of Multinational Companies brand as they are costlier than Indian ones and are in great demand in abroad; and

(b) if so, the action the Government propose to take to check the thefts of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No such report has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

M-11 Ballastic Missiles

2412. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether China recently denied the allegations in the US media that it had sold out M-11 ballastic missiles to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

(c) whether a high-level delegation of chinese People's Liberation Army recently visited India; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of defence cooperation between China and Pakistan, including supply of military equipment and technology. Government continue to take all necessary measures to safeguard India's security.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Chinese People's Liberation Army delegation led by the Commander of the Chengdu Military Region, Lt. Gen. Liao Zilong, visited India from June